fuels along with localized distribution. For successful implementation of distributed generation and for involvement of local entrepreneurs and agencies, the Rural Electric Supply Technology Mission (REST), under the auspices of the Ministry of Power, was constituted on September 11, 2002. The terms of reference of the Mission are to :—

(i) Evolve a strategy based on technology which could provide for low cost power generation and low cost of delivery in the rural areas which can be managed by local institutions like Village Panchayats and NGOs.

(ii) Identify feasible size of generating units for different fuels, which are locally available, and for mini and micro hydel projects.

(iii) Suggest type of technologies to be adopted for setting up local distribution networks with or without connectivity to the Grid and to cover at least 25% of the villages in the country under the Mission.

(iv) To assess funds requirement for the next two Plans.

Impact of Gas Discovery of Reliance/NIKO consortium

848. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gas discovery by the Reliance/NIKO consortium would positively impact the incremental addition to the power generating capacity in the country and whether NTPC and other organizations would be encouraged to opt for gas based power generation; and

(b) if so, how the discovery of gas reserves will impact on the price of power generated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) As far as National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is concerned, they have resorted to International Competitive Bidding for sourcing of gas for gas based power projects.

Analysing the functioning of SEBs

849. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :